

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

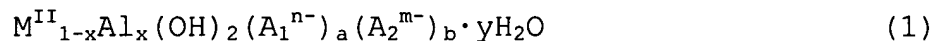
In re Application of:            )   Group Art Unit: 1754  
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TANAKA et al.                    )   Examiner: Stuart L. Hendrickson  
                                      )  
Serial No.: 10/608,262         )  
                                      )  
Filed:           June 30, 2003 )  
  
For:               **DYE FIXING AGENT FOR WATER-COLOR INK, INK JET  
                     RECORDING MEDIUM AND POROUS HYDROTALCITE COMPOUND**

Appendix A

Please amend the claims as indicated according to 37 C.F.R.  
§ 1.121 concerning a manner for making claim amendments.

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A porous hydrotalcite compound  
represented by the following formula (1):



wherein  $M^{II}$  is  $Mg^{2+}$  or/and  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $A_1^{n-}$  is a silicic acid ion  
( $HSi_2O_5^-$ ) and a sulfuric acid ion ( $SO_4^{2-}$ ), or a silicic acid ion  
( $HSi_2O_5^-$ ),  $A_2^{m-}$  is an anion selected from the group consisting of  
 $CO_3^{2-}$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $Cl^-$  and  $OH^-$ , x and y satisfy  $0.50 < x \leq 0.80$  and  $0 < y$   
 $< 2$ , and ~~a~~ and

b satisfy  $0.50 < na + mb \leq 0.80$ , and having a BET specific surface area of 50 to 400 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

20. (Previously presented) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19, wherein  $A_1^{n-}$  is a silicic acid ion ( $HSi_2O_5^-$ ) and a sulfuric acid ion ( $SO_6^{2-}$ ).

21. (Previously presented) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19, wherein the silicic acid ion ( $HSi_2O_5^-$ ) and the sulfuric acid ion ( $A_1^{n-}$ ) accounts for 10 to 98 mol% of the total of all the anions ( $A_1^{n-} + A_2^{m-}$ ).

22. (Previously presented) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has a BET specific surface area of 100 to 300 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

23. (Original) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has a total pore volume ( $N_2$  gas adsorption method) of 0.50 to 2.00 ml/g.

24. (Original) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has an average pore radius ( $N_2$  gas adsorption method) of 4 to 15 nm.

25. (Original) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has an average particle diameter of 0.1 to 10  $\mu m$ .

Claims 26-40 (Canceled)

41. (Previously presented) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has a total pore volume ( $N_2$  gas adsorption method) of 0.70 to 1.60 ml/g.

42. (Previously presented) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has an average pore radius ( $N_2$  gas adsorption method) of 7 to 10 nm.

43. (Previously presented) The porous hydrotalcite compound according to claim 19 which has an average particle diameter of 0.5 to 10  $\mu m$ .

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44. (Canceled)